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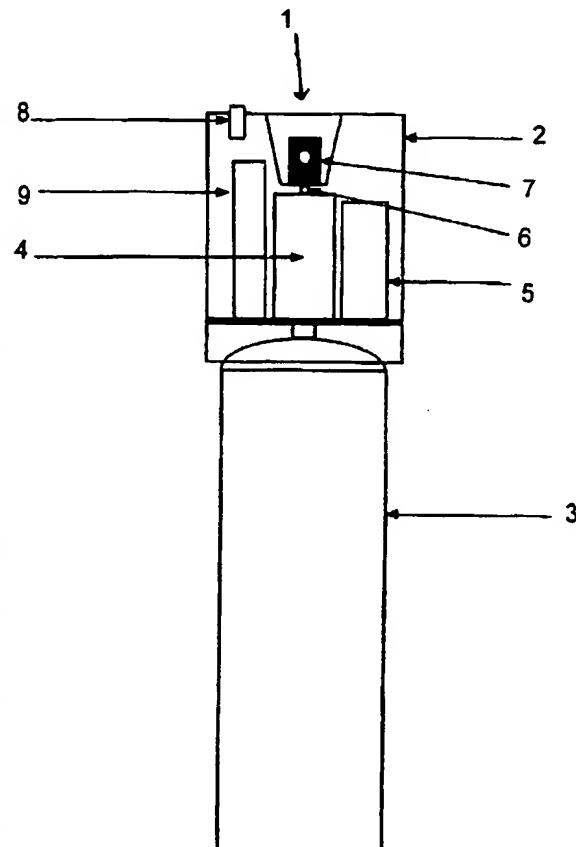
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: A DISPENSER



(57) Abstract: According to the invention there is a dispenser (1), the dispenser having a dispenser head (2) and a container (3), containing spray material, the dispenser being formed such that the container (3) can be detached from the dispenser head (2) and refilled and/or replaced when the spray material is exhausted; the dispenser (1) having a solenoid valve means (4) substantially enclosed in a substantially metallic locking cover means, the valve means (4) being arranged to substantially facilitate movement of the spray material from the container (3) to the spray head (2), and the cover means being arranged to intensify a magnetic field which, when the dispenser is in use, facilitates opening and closing of the valve means. The dispenser (1) being formed such that it can be set so the valve means (4) opens and closes automatically and periodically to release a flow of spray material from the container to the spray head such that the spray material is released as a spray to an atmosphere outside of the dispenser.

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

TITLE

A Dispenser

FIELD OF INVENTION

5 This invention relates to a dispenser. A preferred form of the invention relates to an
dispenser for automatically releasing a spray into an atmosphere intermittently.

BACKGROUND ART

It is known to use automatic aerosol dispensers to spray liquid agricultural
10 chemicals, odor neutralizers, disinfectants, or essential oils, etc, into an
atmosphere. In the case of agricultural chemicals these may be for the purpose of
repelling or destroying insect pests. A problem with many of the existing dispensers
is that they become ineffective at high temperatures. It is accordingly an object of
at least one form of the present invention to go at least some way towards
15 addressing this problem, or to at least provide the public with a useful choice.

The term "comprise", "comprises", "comprised" or "comprising" if and when used in
this document, should be interpreted non-exclusively, i.e. should be interpreted non-
exclusively to mean "consisting of or including"

20

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of this invention there is provided a dispenser, the
dispenser having a dispenser head and a container containing spray material, the
dispenser being formed such that the container can be detached from the dispenser
25 head and refilled and/or replaced when the spray material is exhausted;

the dispenser having solenoid valve means substantially enclosed in a
substantially metallic locking cover means, the valve means being arranged to
substantially facilitate movement of the spray material from the container to the

spray head, and the cover means being arranged to intensify a magnetic field which, when the dispenser is in use, facilitates opening and closing of the valve means;

the dispenser being formed such that it can be set so the valve means

5 opens and closes automatically and periodically to release a flow of spray material from the container to the spray head such that spray material is released as a spray to an atmosphere outside of the dispenser.

The dispenser head may be at an upper or lower part of the dispenser.

10

Preferably the dispenser has a power source arranged to power opening and closing of the valve means.

Preferably the power source comprises a battery.

15

Preferably the dispenser comprises electronic means (eg a printed circuit board) arranged to control opening and closing of the valve means.

Preferably the electronic means is powered by the power source.

20

Preferably the container comprises an aerosol can.

Preferably the cover means comprises a first part and a second part, and wherein these two parts can lock with respect to one another.

25

Preferably the first and second parts can be subsequently released from one another when desired.

Preferably the first part comprises a hooked portion and the second part comprises an indented portion, the hooked and indented portions being complimentary to one another such that the hooked portion can engage the indented portion to lock the cover means.

5

Preferably the first part of the cover means can be clicked into engagement with the second part of the cover means.

Preferably the dispenser comprises a spray nozzle arranged to cause the spray 10 material to form a spray as it leaves the dispenser.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Some preferred aspects of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

15

Figure 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an automatic aerosol dispenser, and

20

Figure 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view showing detail of part of the dispenser.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to figure 1, the dispenser 1 comprises a dispenser head 2 and a container 3. The dispenser head 2 has a solenoid valve 4 which is powered by a small battery 5. When the valve 4 is opened it allows spray material to flow from the container 3 to be released to the atmosphere via an aperture 6 and a spray nozzle 7. The spray head 2 also has a switch 8 which can be used to activate a circuit board 9 for controlling opening and closing of the valve 4. The circuit board 9 is powered by the

battery 5.

Referring to figure 2, the solenoid valve 4 comprises a bobbin 10 which is wound with electrical wire 11, through which an armature 12 is moveable. More 5 particularly, the armature 12 can move when a magnetic flux is created within the bobbin 10 in response to an electrical current. It will be appreciated that when the armature 12 moves appropriately the valve 4 is momentarily opened. When the valve 4 is opened, pressurized fluid held in the container 3 is able to pass through the valve 4 to the atmosphere through a valve seat 13. When the electric current 10 ceases the armature 12 is returned to its original position by a spring 20, thus closing the valve.

The valve 4 is enclosed in a metallic cover comprising a metallic hood 15 and a metallic base 16. The base 16 has a hooked portion 17a and the hood 15 has an 15 indented portion 17b. The hooked and indented portions are complimentary to one another. The hooked portion 17a can be clipped or otherwise engaged with the indented portion 17b to lock the cover.

With further reference to figure 2, the base 16 comprises a fitting 18 which connects 20 to the container 3, eg by way of a screw thread or some alternative means. Fluids in the container 3 may flow through the solenoid valve 4 via the fitting 18 when the valve is opened.

Preferably the invention is such that the metal cover enhances or intensifies the 25 magnetic flux associated with the solenoid valve 4. By locking the cover as described above, the hood 15 and the base 16 are resistant to separation as a result of possible softening of plastic parts forming part of the dispenser - for example softening of the bracket 19 in which the base 16 rests (see figure 2). The

locking facility for the cover also resists separation of the hood 15 and base 16 due to gas pressure within the dispenser head 2/valve 4. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that increased gas pressure may result from increases in temperature of the atmosphere surrounding the dispenser, and thus within the container.

5

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that if the hood 15 and the base 16 separate, for example as a consequence of rising temperatures, then the magnetic flux associated with the solenoid valve 4 may deteriorate. Indeed if the separation is too great then the valve 4 may not function properly, or may not function at all.

10

Preferably the dispenser 1 is such that it can be set to automatically and intermittently release a spray of the spray material within the container into the outside atmosphere. Once set, and if desired, the dispenser 1 can be left running until the spray material is exhausted. When the container 3 is exhausted it may be 15 detached from the spray head 2, refilled, and then again attached to the spray head 2 for further use. Alternatively the container 3 may be replaced altogether. Preferably the dispenser head 2 can be used with containers of various sizes, or having different spray materials. Such containers are preferably of an aerosol type, although the invention can be used with alternative container types.

20

Preferably the dispenser 1 is formed such that it can function effectively at ambient temperatures of up to 75° C.

While some preferred forms of the invention have been described by way of 25 example, it should be appreciated that improvements and modifications can occur without departing from the scope of the following claims

CLAIMS

1. A dispenser, the dispenser having a dispenser head and a container containing spray material, the dispenser being formed such that the container can be detached from the dispenser head and refilled and/or replaced when the spray material is exhausted;

the dispenser having solenoid valve means substantially enclosed in a substantially metallic locking cover means, the valve means being arranged to substantially facilitate movement of the spray material from the container to the spray head, and the cover means being arranged to intensify a magnetic field which, when the dispenser is in use, facilitates opening and closing of the valve means;

the dispenser being formed such that it can be set so the valve means opens and closes automatically and periodically to release a flow of spray material from the container to the spray head such that spray material is released as a spray to an atmosphere outside of the dispenser.

2. A dispenser according to claim 1, comprising a power source arranged to power opening and closing of the valve means.

20

3. A dispenser according to claim 2, wherein the power source comprises a battery.

25

4. A dispenser according to claim 1, 2 or 3, comprising electronic means arranged to control opening and closing of the valve means.

5. A dispenser according to claim 4, when read back on claim 2 either directly or indirectly, wherein the electronic means is powered by the power source.

6. A dispenser according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container comprises an aerosol can.

5 7. A dispenser according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cover means comprises a first part and a second part, and wherein these two parts can lock with respect to one another.

8. A dispenser according to claim 7, wherein the first and second parts can be
10 subsequently released from one another when desired.

9. A dispenser according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the first part comprises a hooked portion and the second part comprises an indented portion, the hooked and indented portions being complimentary to one another such that the hooked portion
15 can engage the indented portion to lock the cover means.

10. A dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the first part of the cover means can be clicked into engagement with the second part of the cover means.

20 11. A dispenser according to any of the preceding claims, comprising a spray nozzle arranged to cause the spray material to form a spray as it leaves the dispenser.

12. A dispenser according to claim 1, substantially as herein described with
25 reference to the accompanying drawings.

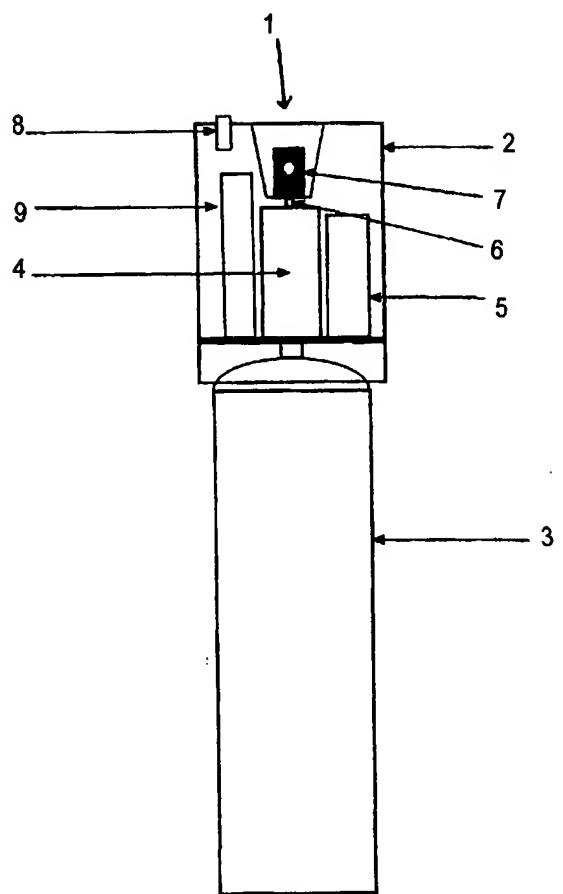
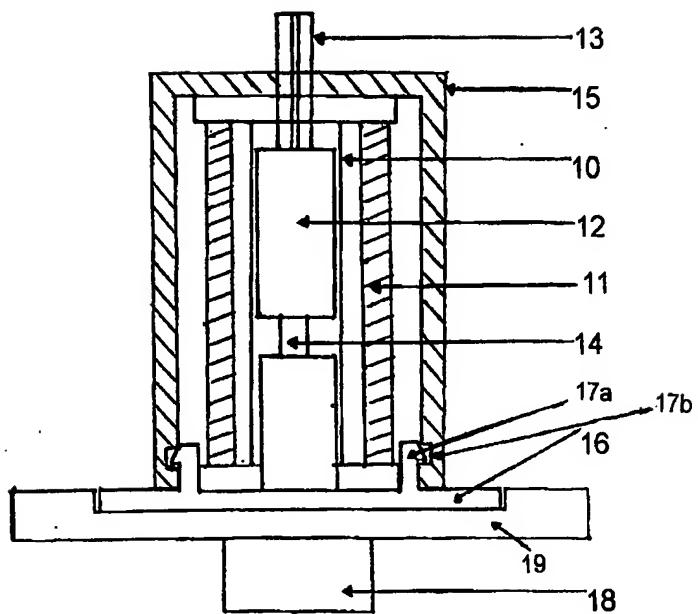
FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ03/00117

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl. ⁷ : B65D 83/14, B65D 83/26		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) PLEASE REFER TO THE ELECTRONIC DATABASE CONSULTED BELOW		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI : IPC B65D 83/-, B67D 5/-, B05B 1/-, 12/-, 17/- and key words: solenoid, valve, spray, intermittent, refill and similar terms.		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	Derwent Abstract Accession No. 2002-448827/48, Class P 42 JP 2002113398 A (KOBAYASHI Y) 16 April 2002 Abstract & Drawings	1 - 12
X	WO 02/40376 A1 (IPTECH LIMITED) 23 May 2002 Entire Document	1 - 12
X	GB 2248888 A (KONTROL AIR NEW ZEALAND LIMITED) 22 April 1992 Entire Document	1 - 12
X	EP 0038598 A (CHOUSTOULAKIS) 28 October 1981 Entire Document	1 - 12
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex
<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 August 2003\	Date of mailing of the international search report 05 SEP 2003	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer AMOD PRADHAN Telephone No : (02) 6283 2510	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ03/00117

This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

Patent Document Cited in Search Report				Patent Family Member			
JP	2002113398		NONE				
WO	02/40376	AU	24243/02				
GB	2248888	NZ	235725	AU	85845/91	AU	659805
EP	0038598	AR	227666	ES	8303920	AU	71567/81
		BR	8108444	IL	62655	CA	1169113
		US	- 4415797	ES	501459	WO	81/03010

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/NZ03/00117

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
Int. Cl.?: B65D 83/14, B65D 83/26		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) PLEASE REFER TO THE ELECTRONIC DATABASE CONSULTED BELOW		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DWPI : IPC B65D 83/-, B67D 5/-, B05B 1/-, 12/-, 17/- and key words: solenoid, valve, spray, intermittent, refill and similar terms.		
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<p>* Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 29 August 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report 05 SEP 2003	
Name and mailing address of the ISA/AU AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA E-mail address: pct@ipaaustralia.gov.au Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929	Authorized officer AMOD PRADHAN Telephone No : (02) 6283 2510	

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ03/00117

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21/08/05
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10/516326
DT05 Rec'd PCT/PTO 13 DEC 2004

Patent Application of

Nigel Haig McLISKY

for

5 **TITLE**

A Dispenser

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of PCT/NZ03/00117, filed 10 June 2003 by the
10 present inventor which claims the benefit of NZ519453, filed 11 June 2002 by the
present inventor.

FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH: Not Applicable

15 **SEQUENCE LISTING OR PROGRAM: Not Applicable**

FIELD OF INVENTION

This invention relates to a dispenser. A preferred form of the invention relates to an
dispenser for automatically releasing a spray into an atmosphere intermittently.

20

BACKGROUND ART

It is known to use automatic aerosol dispensers to spray liquid agricultural
chemicals, odor neutralizers, disinfectants, or essential oils, etc, into an
atmosphere. In the case of agricultural chemicals these may be for the purpose of
25 repelling or destroying insect pests. A problem with many of the existing dispensers
is that they become ineffective at high temperatures. It is accordingly an object of
at least one form of the present invention to go at least some way towards
addressing this problem, or to at least provide the public with a useful choice.

The term "comprise" , "comprises" , "comprised" or "comprising" if and when used in this document, should be interpreted non-exclusively, i.e. should be interpreted non-exclusively to mean "consisting of or including"

5

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one aspect of this invention there is provided a dispenser, the dispenser having a dispenser head and a container containing spray material, the dispenser being formed such that the container can be detached from the dispenser

10 head and refilled and/or replaced when the spray material is exhausted;

the dispenser having solenoid valve means substantially enclosed in a substantially metallic locking cover means, the valve means being arranged to substantially facilitate movement of the spray material from the container to the spray head, and the cover means being arranged to intensify a magnetic field

15 which, when the dispenser is in use, facilitates opening and closing of the valve means;

the dispenser being formed such that it can be set so the valve means opens and closes automatically and periodically to release a flow of spray material from the container to the spray head such that spray material is released as a spray

20 to an atmosphere outside of the dispenser.

The dispenser head may be at an upper or lower part of the dispenser.

Preferably the dispenser has a power source arranged to power opening and

25 closing of the valve means.

Preferably the power source comprises a battery.

Preferably the dispenser comprises electronic means (eg a printed circuit board) arranged to control opening and closing of the valve means.

Preferably the electronic means is powered by the power source.

5

Preferably the container comprises an aerosol can.

Preferably the cover means comprises a first part and a second part, and wherein these two parts can lock with respect to one another.

10

Preferably the first and second parts can be subsequently released from one another when desired.

15 Preferably the first part comprises a hooked portion and the second part comprises an indented portion, the hooked and indented portions being complimentary to one another such that the hooked portion can engage the indented portion to lock the cover means.

20 Preferably the first part of the cover means can be clicked into engagement with the second part of the cover means.

Preferably the dispenser comprises a spray nozzle arranged to cause the spray material to form a spray as it leaves the dispenser.

25 **DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Some preferred aspects of the invention will now be described by way of example and with reference to the accompanying drawings, of which:

Figure 1 is a schematic cross-sectional view of an automatic aerosol dispenser, and

Figure 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view showing detail of part of the dispenser.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Referring to figure 1, the dispenser 1 comprises a dispenser head 2 and a container 3. The dispenser head 2 has a solenoid valve 4 which is powered by a small battery 5. When the valve 4 is opened it allows spray material to flow from the container 3 to be released to the atmosphere via an aperture 6 and a spray nozzle 7. The spray head 2 also has a switch 8 which can be used to activate a circuit board 9 for controlling opening and closing of the valve 4. The circuit board 9 is powered by the battery 5.

15

Referring to figure 2, the solenoid valve 4 comprises a bobbin 10 which is wound with electrical wire 11, through which an armature 12 is moveable. More particularly, the armature 12 can move when a magnetic flux is created within the bobbin 10 in response to an electrical current. It will be appreciated that when the armature 12 moves appropriately the valve 4 is momentarily opened. When the valve 4 is opened, pressurized fluid held in the container 3 is able to pass through the valve 4 to the atmosphere through a valve seat 13. When the electric current ceases the armature 12 is returned to its original position by a spring 20, thus closing the valve.

25

The valve 4 is enclosed in a metallic cover comprising a metallic hood 15 and a metallic base 16. The base 16 has a hooked portion 17a and the hood 15 has an indented portion 17b. The hooked and indented portions are complimentary to one

another. The hooked portion 17a can be clipped or otherwise engaged with the indented portion 17b to lock the cover.

With further reference to figure 2, the base 16 comprises a fitting 18 which connects 5 to the container 3, eg by way of a screw thread or some alternative means. Fluids in the container 3 may flow through the solenoid valve 4 via the fitting 18 when the valve is opened.

Preferably the invention is such that the metal cover enhances or intensifies the 10 magnetic flux associated with the solenoid valve 4. By locking the cover as described above, the hood 15 and the base 16 are resistant to separation as a result of possible softening of plastic parts forming part of the dispenser - for example softening of the bracket 19 in which the base 16 rests (see figure 2). The locking facility for the cover also resists separation of the hood 15 and base 16 due 15 to gas pressure within the dispenser head 2/valve 4. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that increased gas pressure may result from increases in temperature of the atmosphere surrounding the dispenser, and thus within the container.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that if the hood 15 and the base 16 20 separate, for example as a consequence of rising temperatures, then the magnetic flux associated with the solenoid valve 4 may deteriorate. Indeed if the separation is too great then the valve 4 may not function properly, or may not function at all.

Preferably the dispenser 1 is such that it can be set to automatically and 25 intermittently release a spray of the spray material within the container into the outside atmosphere. Once set, and if desired, the dispenser 1 can be left running until the spray material is exhausted. When the container 3 is exhausted it may be detached from the spray head 2, refilled, and then again attached to the spray head

2 for further use. Alternatively the container 3 may be replaced altogether. Preferably the dispenser head 2 can be used with containers of various sizes, or having different spray materials. Such containers are preferably of an aerosol type, although the invention can be used with alternative container types.

5

Preferably the dispenser 1 is formed such that it can function effectively at ambient temperatures of up to 75° C.

While some preferred forms of the invention have been described by way of
10 example, it should be appreciated that improvements and modifications can occur without departing from the scope of the following claims

CLAIMS

5 1. A dispenser, the dispenser having a dispenser head and a container containing spray material, the dispenser being formed such that the container can be detached from the dispenser head and refilled and/or replaced when the spray material is exhausted; the dispenser having solenoid valve means substantially enclosed in a substantially metallic locking cover means, the valve means being arranged to

10 substantially facilitate movement of the spray material from the container to the spray head, and the cover means being arranged to intensify a magnetic field which, when the dispenser is in use, facilitates opening and closing of the valve means; the dispenser being formed such that it can be set so the valve means opens and closes automatically and periodically to release a flow of spray material

15 from the container to the spray head such that spray material is released as a spray to an atmosphere outside of the dispenser.

20 2. A dispenser according to claim 1, comprising a power source arranged to power opening and closing of the valve means.

3. A dispenser according to claim 2, wherein the power source comprises a battery.

25 4. A dispenser according to claim 1,2 or 3, comprising electronic means arranged to control opening and closing of the valve means.

5. A dispenser according to claim 4, when read back on claim 2 either directly or indirectly, wherein the electronic means is powered by the power source.

6. A dispenser according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the container comprises an aerosol can.
7. A dispenser according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cover means comprises a first part and a second part, and wherein these two parts can lock with respect to one another.
5
8. A dispenser according to claim 7, wherein the first and second parts can be subsequently released from one another when desired.
10
9. A dispenser according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the first part comprises a hooked portion and the second part comprises an indented portion, the hooked and indented portions being complimentary to one another such that the hooked portion can engage the indented portion to lock the cover means.
15
10. A dispenser according to claim 9, wherein the first part of the cover means can be clicked into engagement with the second part of the cover means.
11. A dispenser according to any of the preceding claims, comprising a spray nozzle arranged to cause the spray material to form a spray as it leaves the dispenser.
20
12. A dispenser according to claim 1, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
25

ABSTRACT

According to the invention there is a dispenser 1, the dispenser having a dispenser head 2 and a container 3 containing spray material, the dispenser 1 being formed 5 such that the container 3 can be detached from the dispenser head 3 and refilled and/or replaced when the spray material is exhausted;

the dispenser 1 having solenoid valve means 4 substantially enclosed in a substantially metallic locking cover means, the valve means 4 being arranged to substantially facilitate movement of the spray material from the container 3 to the 10 spray head 2, and the cover means being arranged to intensify a magnetic field which, when the dispenser is in use, facilitates opening and closing of the valve means;

the dispenser 1 being formed such that it can be set so the valve means 4 opens and closes automatically and periodically to release a flow of spray material 15 from the container to the spray head such that spray material is released as a spray to an atmosphere outside of the dispenser. The cover means may comprise two parts which are lockable with respect to one another.

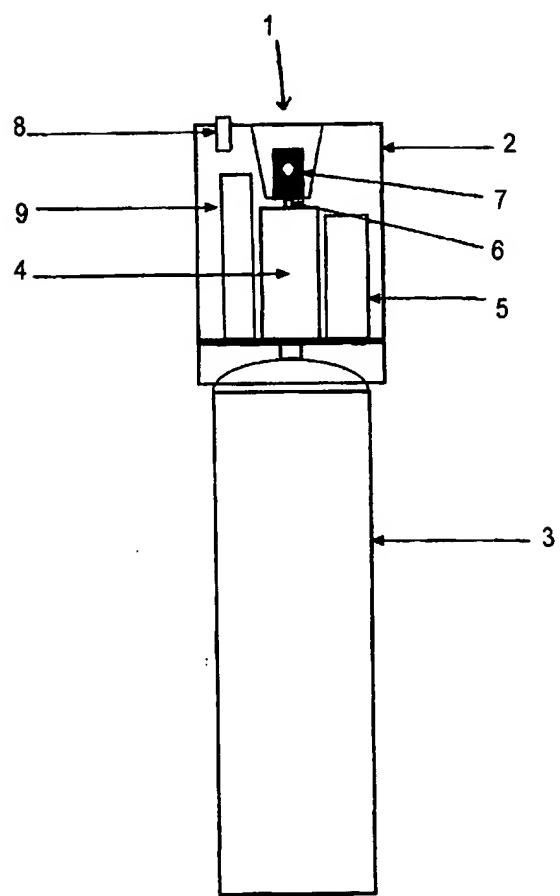
FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2